

RACING THIS WEEK

TRUCKS BURNOUT ALERT! Kaden Honeycutt celebrates after winning Friday's Championship Race at Miami Speedway. **M. Oliphant/Getty**



TRUCKS CHAMPIONSHIP

• **Friday's** CRAFTSMAN TRUCK SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP, Homestead-Miami



WINNER: KADEN HONEYCUTT

Under caution with 27 laps left in Friday night's Championship Race at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Chase leader Kaden Honeycutt was debating whether to pit for fresh tires.

"I say we pit, put 'em on and go for it," Honeycutt radioed to crew chief Scott Zipadelli.

That's exactly what Honeycutt did. Gaining the lead after a restart on Lap 121 of 134, he pulled away from runner-up Christian Eckes to win not only the race but his first series championship.

Knowing the title was his—and screaming with raw emotion—Honeycutt powered his No. 11 TRICON Garage Toyota across the finish line 1.038 seconds ahead of Eckes to score his fifth victory of the season, his first at Miami and the fifth of his career.

"Man, this is amazing," Honeycutt exulted. "I've worked so damn hard to be here. Thank you to every owner, thank you everybody that's let me drive the race car for them, whether it was dirt, asphalt, road course, doesn't matter.

"That is because of you guys I'm sitting right here with this group behind me as champions. I'm so out of breath, I wish I could talk harder. Thank you, fans, for showing up. We just won Homestead and the damn championship."

Honeycutt's decision to abandon the conservative approach he had adopted early in the race paid enormous dividends.

"The first half of the race I did not want to push it too hard," he said. "It fell in our hands. I put my nuts on the dash and wanted to win the race."

The drivers' championship was the 11th in the series for Toyota, achieved in the same No. 11 Toyota Corey Heim drove to a single-season-record 12 victories and the title last year.

Billed as a shootout between Honeycutt and Layne Riggs, the head-to-head battle never materialized. After side-to-side contact with the No. 77 Chevrolet of pole winner Nick Sanchez on Lap 2, Riggs No. 34 Front Row Motorsports Ford was never the same.

Daniel Hemric, Eckes' teammate at McAnally-Hilgemann Racing, finished third, followed by Ty Majeski and Stewart Friesen. Heim was sixth in the No. 1 TRICON Garage Toyota after winning the first and second stages.

Despite competing in only nine of the 25 Truck Series races, Heim scored three victories this season and finished 17th in the points.

Chandler Smith, Jake Garcia, Grant Enfinger and Corey LaJoie completed the top 10. Smith finished third in the standings behind Riggs, his teammate.

Zipadelli claimed his second straight championship as a crew chief, having guided Heim to the title last season. Honeycutt gave Zipadelli enormous credit for his steady-handed encouragement.

"Scott Zipadelli is the best damn crew chief on that pit road," Honeycutt asserted. "He's the best man out there. He's not just a Hall of Fame crew chief, he's a Hall of Fame man. He's done nothing but mentor me and make me better every single week."

Obviously, the guidance bore fruit on Friday night.

CUP CHAMPIONSHIP

On Sunday in Miami, Kyle Larson became the 11th driver to win three or more championships in NASCAR's top division. Larson joined an elite group of three-time champions that includes Hall of Famers Lee Petty, David Pearson, Darrell Waltrip, Cale Yarborough and Tony Stewart, along with current driver Joey Logano.





Kyle Larson, driver of the #5 HendrickCars.com Chevrolet, celebrates with his son Cooper and daughter Audrey after wining the 2026 NASCAR Cup Series Championship with a 12th place finsih at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Sunday. (Sean Gardner/Getty)

Once again, Blaney gets the win, Larson the title

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — Ryan Blaney stole the consolation prize from Tyler Reddick with two laps left in Sunday's Cup Series Championship Race at Homestead-Miami, but it's Kyle Larson who will leave South Florida with the championship trophy.

Blaney passed Reddick on Lap 266 of 267 in the final race of the reconstituted NASCAR Cup Series Chase presented by Mobil 1 and powered his No. 12 Team Penske Ford across the finish line 0.314 seconds ahead of the Reddick's 23XI Racing Toyota.

Long before Blaney secured his fourth victory of the season and 21st of his career, Larson had clinched his second straight championship and third overall with a fourth-place finish in the first stage.

After multiple brushes with the outside wall, Larson eventually rolled home in 12th in the No. 5 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet, becoming the first Cup Series driver to win back-to back titles since Hendrick legend Jimmie Johnson claimed five straight from 2006 through 2010.

"I got word that we clinched it, and I started driving like an idiot," Larson said with a laugh.

Larson became the 11th driver to win three or more championships in NASCAR's top division. As broadcaster Jeff Burton pointed out earlier in the weekend, more humans have walked on the moon (12) than have won three Cup titles.

Larson joined an elite group of three-time champions that includes NASCAR Hall of Famers Lee Petty, David Pearson, Darrell Waltrip, Cale Yarborough, Tony Stewart and current Team Penske driver Joey Logano.

The championship was the 16th for team owner Rick Hendrick, extending Hendrick Motorsports' series record.

"I'm just so proud of my team, first and foremost," said Larson, who finished 49 points ahead of second-place Christopher Bell and 56 in front of third-place Denny Hamlin. "Hendrick Motorsports, this was statistically probably one of our worst years. To still come away with the championship shows how resilient everybody at the race shop is, everybody on my 5 team, all my teammates, 24 (William Byron), the 9 (Chase Elliott), the 48 (Alex Bowman). GM (General Motors), too, Chevrolet, all the key partners there.

"We absolutely could not have done what we did in the Chase without the teamwork that it took. That's what this championship is, makes it so meaningful, just the teamwork. This one more than any of them took teamwork."

Larson's third championship was official when pole winner Chase Briscoe's engine blew on Lap 78, ending the first stage. Larson was running fourth at the time, one position behind Bell, with Hamlin in sixth.

By scoring seven stage points to Bell's eight and Hamlin's five, Larson put the title out of the reach of his Joe Gibbs Racing pursuers. Hamlin and Bell were left to battle for second in the standings.

Blaney's journey to the checkered flag was convoluted, to say the least. During the first stage break, he returned to pit road to remedy a loose wheel and restarted at the back of the field. By the end of Stage 2, he had climbed to fifth in the running order.

In the final stage, Blaney ran long and pitted on Lap 220 and was running down Byron and Reddick from five seconds back when a caution bunched the field and set up a restart with eight laps left.

Blaney restarted fourth, passed Bell on lap 263, slipped past Byron a lap later and made the winning pass of Reddick on Lap 266 of 267.

"Pretty cool night battling back from coming down pit road," said Blaney, who avenged a haunting last-lap loss to Reddick at 1.5-mile Homestead in 2024. "Car was really, really fast. I appreciate everybody for sticking with it.

"Even though we weren't part of the championship fight, our goal was to try to win the race, end on a high note, get the most points we can."

The victory elevated Blaney three positions to fourth in the final standings, 94 points behind Larson.

Hamlin came home sixth, followed by Austin Cindric, Suarez, Gragson, and Michael McDowell.

Notes: Hamlin led a race-high 87 laps, followed by Reddick with 53, Bell with 46 and Byron with 38. Blaney led seven laps... J.J. Yeley finished 36th in his 400th Cup start, one spot ahead of Casey Mears, who achieved his personal goal of 500 Cup starts... Justin Haley ran 21st, subbing for suspended driver Carson Hocevar.

XFINITY CHAMPIONSHIP

• **Saturday's** O'REILLY AUTO PARTS SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP, Homestead-Miami Speedway



RACE WINNER: BRANDON JONES (L)
TITLE WINNER: JUSTIN ALLGAIER (R)

Joe Gibbs Racing's Brandon Jones took the lead with 14 laps remaining and pulled away to a nearly four-second victory in Saturday night's Championship Race at Homestead-Miami.

Just behind all the admirable work out front, JR Motorsports Justin Allgaier claimed his own hardware – his seventh-place finish in the No. 7 JRM Chevrolet good enough to earn the 2026 series championship trophy; his second title in the last three years, the first driver in JRM history to claim multiple championships.

Five drivers came into the night eligible to decide the title, and Allgaier's four closest contenders certainly kept him honest. All but one of those drivers (Hendrick Motorsports' Corey Day) led laps. Haas Factory Team's Sheldon Creed led a race best 99 of the 200 laps.

But the 40-year-old Allgaier did exactly what he needed to, if not pacing the field, at least keeping the leaders in sight. A career-best six-win season and just enough of a points advantage at the drop of the green flag kept him tops at the wave of the checkered flag, too.

"Means more than you'll ever know," Allgaier said. "It's obviously not the finish we wanted tonight. Wanted to be in Victory Lane. But this team never quits."

Not only did the championship contenders deliver a suspenseful, action-packed night at the 1.5-mile South Florida track, but the 29-year-old Jones – also a Chase driver – reminded everyone that he expects to be part of that title mix going forward too. The win – by 3.937 seconds over JR Motorsports' Carson Kvapil – marked his second of the year (Chicagoland) and ninth of his career.

2026 CUP SERIES FINAL STANDINGS

Champion 1 + 29 as of November 8

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 Kyle Larson #5	**2501**	16 Chris Buescher #17	2212
2 Christopher Bell #20	2452	17 S v Gisbergen #97	774
3 Denny Hamlin #11	2445	18 Ross Chastain #1	752
4 Ryan Blaney #12	2407	19 Brad Keselowski #6	723
5 Tyler Reddick #45	2397	20 Michael McDowell #71	691
6 Chase Briscoe #19	2386	21 Todd Gilliland #34	656
7 Joey Logano #22	2386	22 Josh Berry #21	651
8 William Byron #24	2344	23 Erik Jones #43	643
9 Ty Gibbs #54	2335	24 Austin Dillon #3	607
10 Austin Cindric #2	2306	25 AJ Allmendinger #16	606
11 Bubba Wallace #23	2293	26 Alex Bowman #48	594
12 Chase Elliott #9	2287	27 Zane Smith #38	584
13 Daniel Suárez #7	2243	28 Ricky Stenhouse Jr #47	527
14 Carson Hocevar #77	2234	29 J. H. Nemechek #42	517
15 Ryan Preece #60	2226	30 Riley Herbst #35	495

2026 O'REILLY FINAL STANDINGS

Champion 1 + 19 as of November 7

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 J. Allgaier Chevrolet	**2477**	11 P. Retzlaff Chevrolet	2263
2 J. Love Chevrolet	2463	12 R. Caruth Chevrolet	2224
3 C. Kvapil Chevrolet	2449	13 B. Crews Toyota	878
4 S. Creed Chevrolet	2444	14 W. Sawalich Toyota	838
5 C. Day Chevrolet	2416	15 R. Sieg Chevrolet	758
6 S. Mayer Chevrolet	2387	16 A. Alfredo Chevrolet	735
7 S. Smith Chevrolet	2352	17 D. Thompson Toyota	620
8 B. Jones Toyota	2314	18 B. Poole Ford	605
9 T. Gray Toyota	2300	19 H. Burton Toyota	571
10 A. Hill Chevrolet	2281	20 J. Clements Chevrolet	570

NEXT RACE: UNITED RENTALS 300, Daytona International, Saturday, Feb. 20, 2027, CW

2026 TRUCKS FINAL STANDINGS

Champion 1 + 19 as of November 6

Rank/Driver	Points	Rank/Driver	Points
1 K. Honeycutt #11	**2471**	11 Jake Garcia #98	614
2 Layne Riggs #34	2388	12 Stewart Friesen #52	536
3 Chandler Smith #38	2340	13 Brenden Queen #12	514
4 Ty Majeski #88	2319	14 Tanner Gray #15	510
5 Christian Eckes #91	2308	15 Justin Haley #16	496
6 Gio Ruggiero #17	2252	16 A. Perez De Lara #44	487
7 Daniel Hemric #19	2249	17 Corey Heim #1	431
8 Ben Rhodes #99	2241	18 Cole Butcher #13	378
9 Grant Enfinger #9	2210	19 Landen Lewis #45	375
10 Tyler Ankrum #18	2196	20 Dawson Sutton #27	366

NEXT RACE: FRESH FROM FLORIDA 250, Daytona International, Friday, Feb. 19, 2027, FS1

CUP TITLE WINNER QUOTE

"I'm just so proud of my team, first and foremost. Hendrick Motorsports, this was statistically probably one of our worst years. To still come away with the championship shows how resilient everybody at the race shop is. We absolutely could not have done what we did in the Chase without the teamwork that it took."
— Kyle Larson, who finished 12th to take the Cup Chase title Sunday at Homestead-Miami



Kyle Larson in Victory Lane Sunday at Miami.
JARED C. TILTON/GETTY

2026 CUP SCHEDULE & WINNERS

FEB. 4, 3 PM, FOX: Cook Out Clash at BOWMAN GRAY (**R. Preece**)
FEB. 12, 7 PM, FS1: America 250 Florida Duel 1 at DAYTONA (**J. Logano**)
FEB. 12, 8:45 PM, FS1: America 250 Florida Duel 2 at DAYTONA (**C. Elliott**)
FEB. 15, 2:30 PM, FOX: DAYTONA 500 (**T. Reddick**)
FEB. 22, 3 PM FOX: AutoTrader 400 at ECHOPARK ATLANTA (**T. Reddick**)
MARCH 1, 3:30 PM, FOX: DuraMax Grand Prix at COTA (TX) (**T. Reddick**)
MARCH 8, 3:30 PM, FS1: Straight Talk Wireless 500 at PHOENIX (**R. Blaney**)
MARCH 15, 4 PM, FS1: Pennzoil 400 at LAS VEGAS (**D. Hamlin**)
MARCH 22, 3 PM, FS1: Goodyear 400 at DARLINGTON (**T. Reddick**)
MARCH 29, 3:30 PM, FS1: Cook Out 400 at MARTINSVILLE (**C. Elliott**)
APRIL 12, 3 PM, FS1: Food City 500 at BRISTOL (**T. Gibbs**)
APRIL 19, 2 PM, FOX: AdventHealth 400 at KANSAS (**T. Reddick**)
APRIL 26, 3 PM, FOX: Jack Link's 500 at TALLADEGA (**C. Hocevar**)
MAY 3, 3:30 PM, FS1: Würth 400 at TEXAS (**C. Elliott**)
MAY 10, 3 PM, FS1: Go Bowling at the Glen at WATKINS GLEN (**S. v. Gisbergen**)
MAY 17, 3 PM, FS1: NASCAR All-Star Race at DOVER (**D. Hamlin**)
MAY 24, 6 PM, PRIME: Coca-Cola 600 at CHARLOTTE (**D. Saurez**)
MAY 31, 7 PM, PRIME: Cracker Barrel 400 at NASHVILLE (**D. Hamlin**)
JUNE 7, 3 PM, PRIME: FireKeepers Casino 400 at MICHIGAN (**D. Hamlin**)
JUNE 14, 3 PM, PRIME: Great American Getaway 400 at POCONO (**D. Hamlin**)
JUNE 21, 4 PM, PRIME: Anduril 250 at NAVAL BASE CORONADO (**C. Heim**)
JUNE 28, 3:30 PM, TNT: Toyota/Save Mart 350 at SONOMA (**S. v. Gisbergen**)
JULY 5, 6 PM, TNT: eero 400 at CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY (**C. Briscoe**)
JULY 12, 7 PM, TNT: Quaker State 400 at ECHOPARK ATLANTA (**R. Blaney**)
JULY 19, 7 PM, TNT: Window World 400 at NORTH WILKESBORO (**J. Logano**)
JULY 26, 2 PM, TNT: Brickyard 400 at INDIANAPOLIS (**C. Heim**)
AUG. 9, 3:30 PM, USA: Iowa Corn 350 at IOWA (**T. Gibbs**)
AUG. 15, 7 PM, USA: Cook Out 400 at RICHMOND (**J. Logano**)
AUG. 23, 3 PM, USA: Dollar Tree 301 at NEW HAMPSHIRE (**R. Blaney**)
AUG. 29, 7:30 PM, NBC: Coke Zero Sugar 400 at DAYTONA (**R. Preece**)
PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 16
SEPT. 6, 5 PM, USA: Southern 500 at DARLINGTON (**C. Bell**)
SEPT. 13, 3 PM, USA: Enjoy Illinois 300 at WORLD WIDE TECH (**K. Larson**)
SEPT. 19, 7:30 PM, USA: Bass Pro Shops Night Race at BRISTOL (**J. Logano**)
PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 12
SEPT. 27, 3 PM, USA: Hollywood Casino 400 at KANSAS (**K. Larson**)
OCT. 4, 5:30 PM, USA: South Point 400 at LAS VEGAS (**C. Briscoe**)
OCT. 11, 3 PM, USA: BofA ROVAL 400 at CHARLOTTE (**C. Briscoe**)
PLAYOFFS ROUND OF 8
OCT. 18, 3 PM, USA: Freeway Insurance 500 at PHOENIX (**T. Reddick**)
OCT. 25, 2 PM, NBC: YellaWood 500 at TALLADEGA (**K. Larson**)
NOV. 1, 2 PM, NBC: Xfinity 500 at MARTINSVILLE (**W. Byron**)
PLAYOFFS CHAMPIONSHIP
NOV. 8, 3 PM, NBC: Championship at MIAMI (**K. Larson** title; **R. Blaney** race)

*2025 winners in parenthesis; **2026 winners in bold** as the schedule unfolds; times ET*

BONUS O'REILLY PIC



Justin Allgaier, driver of the #7 BRANDT Professional Agriculture Chevrolet, celebrates with daughters Willow Leigh and Harper after winning the 2026 NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series Championship by placing 7th Saturday at Homestead-Miami Speedway. **C. Graythen/Getty**



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